



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board
From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator
Re: Current Activities
Date: June 8, 2018

Transit:

- MassDOT is working with DEP to encourage Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) to adopt electric bus technologies. This initiative includes using some of the VW settlement funds to cover the cost differential between diesel and electric. MassDOT Transit commissioned a guidebook for RTAs considering electric buses and is working with the Office of Transportation Planning to identify routes that may be particularly well suited for that technology. RTAs that are interested in electric bus technology will be encouraged to take advantage of MassDOT's technical assistance programs so that the technology choice is made with a full understanding of operational characteristics, maintenance issues, reliability and costs.
- FTA requires drug and alcohol testing of its grantees' safety-sensitive employees as a condition of funding. On May 21-21, 2018 an on-site drug and alcohol testing audit was conducted of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and three rural regional transit authorities that receive funds from FTA's rural transit program as sub-recipients of MassDOT. It has been over 12 years since the last audit of this type was conducted on MassDOT and its sub-recipients. The three sub-recipients that were audited were the Martha's Vineyard Transit (VTA), Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) and Nantucket Regional Transit Authority (NRTA).

MassDOT has 90 days in which to correct items ranging from updates to the policy manual to additional training for sub-recipient collection staff. MassDOT Transit staff are in direct communication with the three sub-recipients about the actions required and MassDOT will ensure that the issues identified during the audit will be corrected within the 90 days allotted.

Rail:

- After extensive negotiations, MassDOT and the Housatonic Railroad have agreed to the form of agreement by which the railroad will support MassDOT's planned construction activities on the line that MassDOT acquired from the Housatonic Railroad. The ongoing and planned work includes the repair of 2 bridges and the purchase and installation of some 60,000 ties.

- Current construction activities on other MassDOT owned rail lines include: improving the power system and rebuilding the track and drainage system in the Hyannis Yard; repairing grade crossings in North Dartmouth; repairing eight bridges on the South East lines, improving ten grade crossings on the Framingham line, installing continuous welded rail and ties on the Framingham and Middleboro lines.
- On the Knowledge Corridor a long standing dispute with an adjoining business was resolved, which will enable planned work to go forward, including the completion of Northampton Station.